

Michelle Malkin  
6649 Castor Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19149

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Is it possible to both enjoy and be saddened by the same issue of a letterzine? I enjoyed SE5 for the same reasons I've enjoyed past issues--it was full of interesting letters, both agreeable and otherwise, had in-depth zine reviews, an article and current zine listings. I was saddened by the response to your request that we end all the vitriole brought on by the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke letters. Nowhere in your editorial in SE4 did I get the impression that you were ordering people to drop a subject. Nowhere in your editorial did you say that we couldn't or shouldn't write about Luke Skywalker, as one of the Luke-naters suggested in her letter (and wasn't she being half-obvious about her own desire to negate his very existence when she brought this up?). All you were saying, in my opinion, was that enough anger had been vented over an all blown out of proportion fictional subject, enough friendships had been destroyed unnecessarily because of it, and it is time to return to the original reason we all became SW fans--to enjoy ourselves. I will gladly debate any positive or negative aspects of the SW universe as long as the subject is kept on the level of a debate. Once it becomes obvious to me that someone is on a religious-style vendetta, that is where I leave the "discussion." My reason--it is impossible to debate with a stone wall. Cheree, please don't let the gloom and doomers drown you in their negativity. You put out what I feel is currently the best SW letterzine in existence. You are a good, fair, honest editor. Don't let them get you down. We need people like you too much to let the people who insist that their way is the only way drive you away. Please stay with us.

Sally Syrjala: Good strong letter. I especially liked the line "We should encourage people to let loose the rein and see where it leads." I definitely agree with this viewpoint, for if people's imaginations are trapped by any one idea or set of ideas, they will not have

the freedom to express all that they can. I've also noticed that when people allow themselves to be trapped within the rut of their own personal beliefs, they may become unable to even write about characters with different beliefs or unable to write at all.

Barbara Izzo: That's a fascinating idea about Han being blind throughout ROTJ. It isn't one that I personally believe in, but that doesn't take away from its value as an alternative SW universe story idea. I hope that someone does write it. I'd be interested in seeing how the writer would handle Han's thought processes as he realizes that his eyesight is not coming back but has been replaced with another type of vision--a Force talent. His acceptance of this talent, his learning how to use it, Luke and Leia's reactions once they figured out what was going on, how this talent could be put to use--gods, the idea leads to endless possibilities.

Marlene Karkoska: What a marvelous letter! I not only agreed with all of it but enjoyed the way you wrote it, too. I particularly liked the line about children not having any trouble with Luke's actions "because they don't look for evil intentions behind all of Luke's actions." How true. It takes an adult mind to do that.

Debbie Gilbert: You're definitely right about people who write LoCs deserving at least a post card reply acknowledging that their LoC has been received. And I admit to not having done this with everyone who has sent me LoCs in the past. I also promise that I will send acknowledgements of LoCs from now on. (Now, will some of you SE readers please send LoCs on KESSEL RUN #4, so I can put them together for a special mailing to the contributors of this issue? This isn't for my own benefit but for the benefit of those writers and artists who were in the zine and would like to have some feedback on their work. This LoC collection idea was used by the editors of CARBONITE MANEUVER and ALDERAANI IMPERATIVE, and it struck me as a good one for me to use, too. Since KR4 is the last issue of KESSEL RUN, this special LoC collection will be the only way some contributors will have of getting any feedback at all.)

((Editor's Note: Speaking just as a delighted reader of KR4, Mickey, I'd say that you should clear off a place on your wall for another Fan Q award. This is simply, far and away, the absolute best SW zine this year! After reading it, I was reminded of the year Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes...36 lengths ahead of the pack. KR4 is in a class all by itself!))

Ann Wortham: I certainly did see a copy of FAR REALMS SEX. In fact, I accidentally picked it up at MediaWest\*Con under the mistaken assumption that it was a bunch of flyers stapled together. Was I ever surprised when I finally got to read it. FOR SHAME!!!! By the way, will there be a DAUGHTER OF FAR REALMS SEX or a RETURN OF OR REVENGE OF or an ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MEET...??? ((Ed's Note: Stay tuned next MWC for the sequel, FAR REALMS SUX!))

Sandra Necchi: You are right about the near-deification of Han Solo turning some fans away from him. The same thing has happened with some Luke fan for the same reason regarding him. Actually, my feelings on this are that these fans were probably already losing interest in these characters and the nastiness was just the little push to destroy whatever interest was left. I've also heard that some fan have stopped reading letterzines altogether because the zines had become so full of hurtful anger that the object of letterzine writing had been lost, and that they had lost interest in the SW characters because they had been dissected for good or evil into fictional things, rather than fictional people. The rest of your letter was also well-written, if a bit blunt, and I found absolutely nothing to disagree with. I enjoyed your challenge to the Luke-haters to devote an entire letter to what Luke should have done throughout the saga, as well as point out his good points from their point of view. I'd be fascinated to see such a letter from Marcia Brin or any of the others who believe as she does (judging from her letters of the last several months). You are definitely right that in order to understand a person's true evil, you have to understand his/her good points, too. Then again, I get the impression that Marcia and the others don't think Luke has

any good points (even in his supposed success in being evil), so how could they point out what they think doesn't exist? Perhaps their actual unspoken belief is that Luke was rotten from the start and anything good he may have done was intended to cover up his true intent. Or perhaps he is, unbeknownst to himself, the son of the devil who has just come into his evil birthright? To quote Tommy Lillard--"Shee-it!" (By the way, if any of the Luke or Han-haters would care to continue this debate in deeper detail, I'll be glad to do so in personal letters on the level of a debate.)

Marcia Brin: Now that I have seen letters from you complaining about the stated editorial/censorship policies of both JUNDLAND, TOO and SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, should I expect to see a similar letter from you to the editor of SCOUNDREL, since its editor has now stated that she, too, will be following a censorship policy? The point I am trying to make is that, just as you or I are entitled to our own opinions of now we would want a letterzine to be or not be censored, so is the zine editor entitled to choose the policy that her zine will follow. We may not like it, but as long as the zine ed lets us know what she will or will not find acceptable, she is being fair and honest with us. And I know from past experience that Cheree doesn't just cut material out of a letter; she contacts the writer to let her know what she has found objectionable and give them a chance to rephrase it. ((Ed's note: That sound you hear is me squirming, because this is not always the case, especially around deadline-time when a load of letters come pouring in. I type up the LoCs as is and, if something strikes me as objectionable, I put it in anyway, then upon proofing, if it still strikes me as objectionable, I let it stay, but, if upon second or third or fourth reading, it still offends my sensibilities, I may opt to cut it, usually after letting a couple of third parties read it to see if it's just me. I do apologize to anyone whose letters I've edited without discussing it, but I try to be fair about it and 98% of the time, LoCs run exactly as they come in to me. However, I

do reserve my right as an editor to edit if I feel such is warranted.)) Under such a stated policy, this is more than fair. (I know of a letterzine ed in ST fandom who bans entire letters out of hand if the writer happens to say something that she personally disagrees with.) Besides, I'm quite sure that there are other topics of real interest to discuss besides the possible fall of Luke Skywalker or even Han as hidden Jedi. There are other moral issues to discuss, too--real moral issues, not invented ones. We could start with war, dictatorship, crime lords, drug running, piracy, slavery, genocide, simple murder (simple in comparison with the destruction of an entire planet's population, that is). There are plenty of social and political issues, too--the place of women in galactic society, how the humanoid SW people regard the non-humanoid SW people and vice versa, what exactly led to the destruction of the Old Republic after 20,000 years, what kind of government will the Alliance set up (if any), was Anakin Skywalker completely responsible for his fall to the Dark Side (lots of philosophical arguments in that one), what will Han, Luke and Leia's places be in the Alliance's future, etc., etc., etc. These are just a few ideas. I'm sure that others will come up with a lot more. Letterzines will not die out if we go on to something new, but they could die out if we all bore everyone to death with the same old stuff. If you come up with some new ideas on the fallen Luke slant, I'd love to read them. In the meantime, the subject has gotten plain old-fashioned BORING. Even so, if you continue to write the same things over and over in your letters, I'm sure that Cheree would publish them. She is not censoring ideas, and I think that you have a hell of a nerve for even suggesting such a thing. If you don't like the way that Cheree runs her zine, why don't you put out one of your own with absolutely no censorship? I'd be the first to write to it.

Danaline Bryant: I agree with your letter for the most part, but wonder if it is only possible to fall to the Dark Side "with malice aforethought." I imagine that someone could be driven to the brink of insanity

and make such a choice or already be insane and make this choice. There are stories throughout our history of people selling the souls of their children or loved ones to the Devil to save themselves a while longer. What of those poor unfortunates who were given no choice in these stories? I have a feeling that Anakin was both driven and tricked into going to the Dark Side. The final choice may have been his, but what was his state of mind at the time (Aside to Cheree in response to her query in Danaline's letter--I have been developing an idea that originated in various of my sundry fanzine letters over the past year. A little hornblowing here: one fallen Luke vignette [very purple prose, too] is in TIME WARP 6, another vignette concerning a nasty that Darth Vader does to Luke will appear in PASSAGE TO ARMS 2, and yet another vignette dealing with fallen Luke [very tragic, too] will be in DARK LORD 2. In fact, I'd even go so far as to say that over the past year and more the Luke-haters have been absolutely invaluable in helping me develop alternate universes SW story ideas. Gotta thank 'em for that! If I come up with another one, Cheree, and you want to see it, I'll gladly send it to you. Hmmm, I'm getting an idea about a Dark Side Leia Hmmm...)) ((Ed's note: That's the idea, Mickey! Send stuff for my zines! Hey--just got a great idea--how about a totally alternate universe SW zine, wonderfully depressing to read with nothing but Dark Side stories in it??? [Quick--somebody club me over the head before I do another zine!!!]))

Elsie Bartok: Please show where there was any incident or personal attack in Lucy Nash's SE4 letter. Personal attack is a straight-out dig or character assassination. For example "Marysue Phan said that Darth Vader eats through his nose and I think that she is a real dummy who shouldn't be allowed to influence other true SW fans. Considering the other stupid things she's said in past letters, I'm not surprised to see her making another dumb statement. Maybe if we ignore jerks like her they'll go away." Admittedly this example is a little silly but it should get my point across. To say that you disagree with the stated position

of a certain group of people and then say why is not a personal attack on that group or any of its members. It is simply giving a different opinion, no matter how bluntly stated. Or are we to interpret different opinions as personal attacks? Please learn to separate people and ideas. You say that you do in your letter, but it is obvious to me that you don't. I have a friend in New Jersey who is a Republican. I'm a Democrat. Does that mean that we can't be friends? In reference to Sandra Necchi's letter, I say pretty much the same thing. She may have worded her letter rather bluntly, but the only thing being attacked was ideas and opinions, not people. Aside from indirectly referring to Marcia as a rabid Han fan, there were no personal references to Marcia at all, only her ideas and opinions.

In response to your comments on some points made: At no point in ROTJ was it mentioned that Luke was under Han's command. He volunteered to go with Han and Leia, not to be under Han's orders. If as I've suggested in earlier letters, Luke is working independently as a Jedi, he doesn't have to gain Han's permission to leave Endor or anywhere else. I also reiterate what I said about Han-as-hidden-Jedi being a cop-out. If this were so, then the Han we've seen in all these movies doesn't even exist. He's another person entirely wearing a Han-shell. If this is what you want, fine. But I happen to like the Han I got to know in the SW trilogy.

Jean Stevenson: Referring to the SW trilogy as "only" movies does not take away from any value that may be inherent in these movies. What it does mean is that they are not the real world and not worth ending such things as friendships over. Of course, if the friendship never stood on a solid base to begin with, the movies may have served a valuable purpose in pointing that out. They would have served an even better purpose if the two "friends" sat down, discussed their differences and ended up with a more solid base (the ability to disagree with each other without taking such disagreements personally) for the friendship to continue on.

Gads, Cheree, this letter seems to have run away with

itself. I'll close for now in the hopes that you will continue with SOUTHERN ENCLAVE for a long time to come.



Barbara Tennison  
1834-1/4 Selby Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

September 7, 1984

OH, NO, DON'T DO THAT! That is, don't cease to put out SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, please! You are not irrelevant! SE is not irrelevant! Unless fandom is irrelevant, and if we want to think that way, why are we writing to a letterzine in the first place? Now some of those arguments in letters could be irrelevant, but I'll get to those later...

The sudden conversion of Darth Vader to Anakin Skywalker bothers me as well as Marcia Brin, but I have a few problems with her favored thesis that they are two different people. She seems to be saying that her preferred conclusion is that they are two physically separate people, rather than two personas in one body (though she dutifully includes the latter as a possibility). If there are two completely different characters, one of whom has been passing himself off as the other, the sudden appearance of Anakin's face under Darth Vader's mask after the fight on the Death Star in ROTJ, is hard to explain. Aside from that awkwardness, most of the other evidence she cites could support a two-separate-people hypothesis, tho I don't think it's quite conclusive. The premise does give a much more moral answer to the question of whether Vader, who

did all those nasty things for twenty years, or Anakin Skywalker, who didn't, is able to show up as a Lightside Jedi in the final scene. And it's true that the only statements we are given about Luke's father come from Obi-wan, a questionable source, and from Vader, an even more questionable source, so that the question might still be considered open for speculation.

Unfortunately, the elaborate reasoning required to extract this hypothesis from the SW story's seeming evidence to the contrary, means that the children (and others) who are apt to draw quick moral lessons from the SW movies will miss it entirely. The moral they understand is that Darth Vader took off his mask and stopped being a bad person, and if he died afterwards (which is the traditional punishment for doing evil), as Anakin he can rejoin his old friends who are also dead. For good or ill, this is exactly the moral Christianity promulgates, at least in theory; Lucas was not breaking any new ground, even if he has achieved something of a reductio ad absurdum. (I'm not saying, by the way, that Christianity is the only source of the concept of perfect love and forgiveness as a cure for evil, but it is a source familiar to Lucas and a good proportion of Western movie-goers.)

Thanks to Bev Clark for an illuminating discussion of Campbell's use of "monomyth" and how elements of it might apply to SW, though the strict definition doesn't. As far as fandom is "folk", one might even suggest that its collective perceptions and rewriting of the SW story is closer to true monomyth than the specific movies, for whatever value that may have.

Now, Sonia Blodgett has a good point (one which, to my shame, I hadn't articulated clearly before), that Leia, rather than Luke or Han, may be the strongest hero of the SW saga morally and emotionally. She's lost more to the Empire than either of them, and has spent more time and effort in the Alliance. She also displays at least as much wit and courage in tight situations.

There is a relatively new question raised about Luke's celibate and loveless existence

if Leia is to be his complementary "other half", since ne (in many cultural models) couldn't marry-or-equivalent with her. This assumes that marriage-or-equivalent is the only love relationship possible. Even if the shared use of Force makes Leia his most important associate in one sense, surely there is no absolute bar to Luke's having friends, lovers or (depending on local custom) wives as well.

Suppose that some earlier suggestions that Han Solo might be the real "other", with high Force-ability, were true. Would that have left Luke with a loveless and celibate existence? Or would he have been assumed to find Han his only sex partner, friend, or source of companionship? Perhaps not.

Kerri Smithline asks some good questions about ANH and earlier events, in the light of ROTJ. As ANH opens, it seems clear that Vader was near Tatooine following Leia, who was looking to fetch Kenobi and take him back to Alderaan. Whether Vader knew of Kenobi or vice versa is open. If, as the film hints, Vader was in the charge of Moff Tarkin, he was attached to the Death Star under construction, and to its (one supposes) mission of subduing Rebels. Hence he was available to chase after Rebel blockade runners, which turned out to be the Senator Organa and her traveling droid show...er...entourage. We can further speculate that it was Palpatine who assigned Vader to Tarkin's "leash", which opens up interesting fields of possibility. If Palpatine knew of Skywalker's/Vader's son beforehand (whether Vader did or not), for instance, the plot thickens.

I've been assuming Leia was unaware of her Force-talent (if any), until Endor, but if she had been trained to use it, again, that's a dandy basis for showing ANH and ESB from "another point of view." A Leia-centric story in which she functions as more than a vice-regal pawn or junior Senator-for-the-Rebellion, during her teens, would be interesting.

Thanks also to Marlene Karkoska and Danaline Bryant (and the others who've done it) for their thorough and enthusiastic answers to many of the anti-Luke points that have been discussed lately. Perhaps these can now be dropped in favor of new top-

ics, whether anti-Anakin, anti-Yoda, anti-Palpatine, or anti-Banthadoop? As the Gentle Zined has requested?

Maggie Nowakowska asks a highly provoking and (now that I'm highly provoked) thoughtful question about merchandising. Well, yes, I don't mean to grudge SW to the children for whom it was designed. I am somewhat bewildered that Lucas (or his merchandising policy) appears not only to ignore but to actively deny any appeal the SW movies may have on levels deeper than fast-adventure-with-high-tech-effects. The novelizations, for instance, are an insult to literature. There's nothing wrong with entertaining the child in all of us, but the prospects of an adult denying that his years-long work might have interest to anyone as an adult, is just a trifle ludicrous. While I'm lauding and applauding SW itself and some qualities of its spin-off products, I remain puzzled at this oddity in SW's creator.



Carole Regine  
458 E. Elkhart St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19134

September 6, 1984

Cheree: I was very annoyed to see that your suggested topics for future discussion had been dismissed as "irrelevant." The stated purpose of SE's existence is to function as "a voice for your (contributors) thoughts about SW and fandom and to communicate with fellow fans." I may not agree with, or even be interested in, some of the ideas of my fellow fans, but I would not presume to speak for all of SE's readers by declaring anyone's ideas to be Of No Real

Interest. I respect the right of every fan to decide what he/she finds interesting and worthy of discussion in SE, and I do not grant anyone the right to speak for me.

It was obvious to me that your editorial comment in SE#4 was a request that we tone down the sarcasm and hostility when discussing certain ideas or submerge our repetitive ravings in private correspondence. It was a request; you did not threaten to censor letters containing non-hostile presentations of any idea. I do not contest any fan's right to disagree with you, but I fail to understand why your request drew such deep sarcasm from some readers, or such rude, unreasonable dismissal of your suggestions.

Bev Clark: What a wonderfully informative letter you wrote to SE#5! The truth about FALL OF THE REPUBLIC...a short astronomy lesson...the Ewok Movie...and the fantastic news that there will be another SW movie. I enjoyed your letter more than I enjoyed reading the latest issue of STARLOG.

Michelle Malkin: Thanks for predicting a future for Han that I find both believable and happier than the future I'd predicted for him. I could not imagine his being happy without Leia, but neither could I believe he'd enjoy a sedentary life. By "changing the name of the game", you and other fans have convinced me that My Favorite Spacer's future need not be as dark as I'd painted it. Without altering my beliefs about Han's personality, I can easily imagine his enjoying the life-style you suggested. I also enjoyed Jeanine Hennig's comment that "If the one you love enjoys something, then you give them that enjoyment."

Danaline Bryant: As I recall, our friendship began with an exchange of letters placing heavy emphasis on All The Little Details. I'd thought that by now we'd have run out of New Things To Notice, but your observation about Obi-Wan took me by surprise. It had always gone right over my head that he'd struck the first blow in that duel with Vader. My first reaction to your observation was, "But it was self-defense!", yet this does raise some questions about Kenobi's view of Jedi Philosophy. He was not outnum-

bered, and to strike first does not seem to be the sort of thing a Jedi would've been taught to do...Kenobi, by his own admission, was not the Perfect Jedi, and I think he was perfectly capable of cutting very close to the Dark Side, especially where Vader was concerned. As I've said in a previous letter to SE, I don't believe it's morally wrong to attack one's enemies in time of war; I approve of Kenobi's actions, but that's my morality. I wonder what Yoda would've said...and I'm interested in hearing other fans' opinions on this, as well.

Tim Blaes: "The Sex Pistols" and "Tortured Puppies"?! Aagghh!! Forgive my emotional reaction, Tim...but I'm very out-of-touch with the names of currently popular musical groups...I'd have no objection to a Lucasfilm preview trailer having its own pop-music soundtrack. You've come up with several really good ideas. Too bad the OSWFC isn't more responsive to your suggestions...or at least polite.

Marlene Karkoska: I enjoyed your comment that GL may have dressed Luke in black because he wanted the audience to worry about Luke's fate. That's exactly the effect that that black outfit had on me. I worried...til I remembered that the Stormtroopers wore white.

Karen Finch: Your suggestion that we try to appreciate Luke and Han as "human characters, not saints and certainly not demons" sums up my feelings about this "Han vs. Luke" business. As you know from our private correspondence, I like both of these characters, and think each has a share of faults and virtues.

I liked your comment Han might have put his experience as a smuggler at the disposal of the Alliance. I'd like to see some fanfic that sends him back to the criminal underworld for the benefit of his society. ((Ed's note: check out Maggie Nowakowska's "ThousandWorlds" series in back issues of SKYWALKER. It's one of the best wide-angle views of the SW universe ever written and the underworld spacer society is an integral part of it.)) So many of the ideas expressed in SE (the Falcon is sentient, Han is a Jedi, the war's not really over, etc.) would make marvelous springboards for fanfic...but

many of SE's readers/contributors aren't writers. As one who's never published a work of fiction, I appreciate having a place to air my opinions, speculations, etc. And I appreciate the feedback I've received from other fans.

To Everyone: Have a happy holiday, and I hope we'll all be able to meet here (in SE) again in the new year!



Lin S. Ward  
1703 Heritage Hill Drive  
Richmond, VA 23233

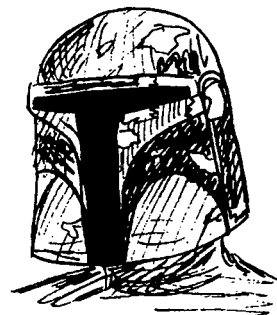
August 31, 1984

I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you for all the pleasure I've gotten from SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. I love it and always am eager to receive the next issue! It's nice to know, for one thing, that the editor is able to stick to a reliable schedule--so it's "safe" to look forward to receiving it. The letters and articles are always interesting and the appearance of the zine is so attractive and professional. ((Ed: Thanks, Lin; egobooos are always welcome!)) Finally, I support your editorial policy 100%, as apparently, so many of your readers do! I'm sick of this debate! When I see letters printed from "volatile" writers, I skip them. What a shame that (as the editor) you can't do the same--I'm really sorry that after all your fine work on SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, you get stuck with those irrational, offensive and hurtful letters.

Every group seems to have its extreme factions; what always amazes me is that the extremists always attract a few followers! Why they insist on inflicting their opinions on the rest of us, at the expense of everyone's pleasure, is beyond me. If you decide to get out of the kitchen, I'll certainly understand, but, my,

won't I miss your cooking!

Thank you for doing a super job on SOUTHERN ENCLAVE and bringing me many hours of happy reading and thinking! Best wishes for a more tranquil future in fandom! MTFBWY!



Sandra H. Necchi  
4509 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139

First, to all those who had nice things to say about my article, a great big thank you. I'd also like to thank Cheree for editing it so well that it sounded better than the original. The article still needed a great deal of revision, tho. It's difficult to discuss "the political economy" of the SW universe without losing a few readers so I'm not surprised a few found it a bit too complex. But we all have our specialties, and I wanted to share mine and apply it to SW. Mickey Malkin is quite right when she says it's just "real world" thinking, however, and therefore an approach GL doesn't take. I offered the piece to those who may want to consider employing a complex political background to their fanfic, whether they accept my ideas or not. The point was to flesh out the SW universe, something I am very interested in doing. In fact, it's the major reason I got into SW--another whole universe to play in! I was especially flattered by Jeanine Hennig's comments, since her "Catalyst!" series has just recently become my favorite of all SW fanfic.

Now, a discussion about letterzines: when a fan decides she wants to edit a letterzine, she is taking the responsibility of disseminating other people's thoughts and ideas. Cheree publishes A TREMOR IN THE FORCE and if she wants to reject a story for whatever reason, that's okay. The author can probably

send it elsewhere. A regular fanzine is more of a personal production, with the editor's own imprint on it. However, a letterzine entails a lot more from its editor. I think Cheree has done a fine job in keeping her integrity and objectivity (as much as any human can be "objective") intact. Editing a letterzine requires an ability to look at oneself critically. You must constantly ask yourself questions of bias and personal preferences. Put simply, it is NOT an easy job. I also personally believe that a letterzine editor should consider her commitment to the principles of the First Amendment, in detail, depth, and complexity, before she ever fully commits herself to the job. Sure, this isn't a government or private professional publication, but if an editor wants to keep her integrity (and be willing to take the attacks she will inevitably get), she should do this. The history of struggles for liberty tells us that one must often decide between what one wants to do and what one should do. I don't mean to get all serious about this but the subject is one that really does need addressing. The reactions to Cheree's editorial in #4 among some fans seemed quite strange to me. I didn't sense any threat of censorship in Cheree's editorial, just a plea for sanity. In essence, I think she was saying, "Enough, already!" And she wasn't just addressing a certain group of fans, but ALL of us. (Right here, I'd like to apologize to Cheree for whatever pain I may have inflicted on her because of the vehemence of my letters, even tho I essentially stand by them.) From what I sense among many fans, she was speaking for a lot of us. Where has this debate brought us? What HASN'T been said? ROTJ, and the entire saga, has been dissected, and re-dissected ad infinitum to prove or unprove one theory. What has it all brought us? Anger, dissension, irritation. There's only one good thing brought by it: many SW fans (myself included) have begun to think more deeply about Luke and have come to understand what a fine, wonderful character he is. This debate has deteriorated into repetitiveness. Face it, folks, it's gotten dull. If you want to

keep talking about it, I doubt Cheree will stop you from doing so. But her point is: WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID? No one's converted anyone to their position. It's become like an argument between an atheist and a devout Christian. After a few hours of talking, they may start insulting each other because there's nowhere else to go with the argument. I believe Cheree has done all she can in this case. She has let everyone have their say over and over again, even when it hurt her. That shows remarkable seriousness on her part--that is, she's serious about her responsibilities as an editor of a letterzine. There are some people in media fandom who simply shouldn't be putting out letterzines (an editor of a prominent SW l-z recently told me, "Regarding any future LoCs or articles you might have, I don't know whether I'd be interested in printing them" only because she disagreed with my ideas). They're not able to divorce their own personal opinions from the zine. Also, I thought the charges of irrelevancy against the ideas for discussion Cheree brought up were pretty ridiculous. Is the "Evil Luke" theory the ONLY thing of import to be discussed in the SW saga??? Cheree's ideas were NOT on the level of "the Wookiee shedding problem." Speculation on SW can cover SO MANY DIFFERENT things, it's quite mind-boggling. I can't understand any SW fan who's concerned over ONE topic to the extent that she thinks it's the only important thing to be discussed. Maggie Nowakowska had an excellent point last isn't this a MORAL discussion. It's like me, a radical, arguing with a political conservative about the morality of the U.S./Central American policy. It's pointless after a while. There are apparently some fans who see some heinous moral problem posed in ROTJ--a lot of us don't. If Melody Corbett wants to know who I think Marquand was referring to, sure, I think it's Luke because I believe Luke to be the "young knight", pure and simple, but I really don't think any of this is important. My letter in #4 was meant to say just that: I really don't care anymore. There's no point in answering every question you bring up, because it's gotten boring. After that letter appeared, by

the way, I received 9 letters the first week, 7 the following week, and 8 the week after from fans telling me how they loved what I said, how they were afraid to say it themselves, and how they couldn't have said it better. There are a few slight corrections I would have liked to insert into the letter, but I stand by it.

Marcia Brin tells me that there's NOTHING NOWHERE to support any of my generalizations. I think the exact same thing about your generalizations. The last ish had a lot of people telling me that just because I don't like what they're saying, I think they're wrong. Isn't that what everyone does? Yes, I disagree with you, most strongly. You also dismiss everything I and others say because you disagree. The attack against me, boiled down, is this: "You're just saying all this because you disagree." Well, gee, I thought that was the point. Tim Blaes and Michelle Malkin had some fine comments to you: you state opinions as facts. The rest of us recognize we can only speculate, so we phrase our arguments with "Isn't it possible...?", etc. Telling me that there's nothing to back up what I'm saying may be what you think. But please don't state it as fact. Now, as to your reference to my article in SCOUNDREL. I knew you'd get me on that. Unfortunately, you didn't even describe the focus of the article, just its secondary points. First, I sent that article unpolished, unrevised and it wasn't edited, so what you read was a first draft. I wrote it at a time I was covering the Big Dan's gang rape trial in Fall River-New Bedford virtually 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for three area newspapers, a radical paper in New York, a feminist magazine in Britain, an opposition paper in Brazil and an underground paper in the USSR. During all that, I banged out four articles and sent them to letterzines, unpolished. My zeal in getting them out before deadlines overcame me, and I assumed the editors would make sense of them. (I don't find this behavior very professional on my part--I'm just explaining the stupid thing I did.) Cheree did a fine job in making sense (as much as could be done with what was there) of the article I sent



her, as did Jill O'Neill with my Leia article in JUNDLAND, TOO. However, I think Joan once expressed an aversion to "messing around with the author's words" so the article went to press as is. So be it. I don't blame her, I blame myself. So the article could do with a big rewrite, BUT it is essentially what I meant to say, which was that SW fandom is founded on a dichotomy, a contradiction: GL's SW differs from fannish SW because his is mythical, stereotypical, symbolic, etc. If we are going to write SW fanfic, we have to flesh out what's on screen and in the books in whatever way we want. That was the focus on the article. I didn't say GL doesn't "know" his characters. I said he doesn't know how to present them in what I consider to be enough of a dramatic, three-dimensional way. Or, he is unwilling to. GL isn't concerned with a three-dimensional story. That's not what his vision of SW is. I just recently read an article with Dave Prowse in STARLOG where he makes these same observations. He likens Lucas to Stanley Kubrick in that GL would prefer it if he (GL) could make a film without any actors. He's simply not an actor's director. And a director who can't direct actors can't present fully developed, complex characters. I may be conceding your points, Marcia, but WHICH points? I concede, as you point out so eloquently, that the events in ROTJ make the entire saga filled with illogicalities in relationships, lines of dialogue, etc. I don't agree with every so-called point of "illogic" you bring up, but I do see quite a few of them. Where we differ is in our attitude toward GL. Even before ROTJ, I never took GL very seriously. This was reinforced when I heard of his dissatisfaction with Kershner's work in TESB, the best SW film in my opinion. In the PBS special, GL said himself that his principal desire as he made every SW film was to provide less and less exposition, to provide "rapid intake of information," to incorporate more and more speed into the films. He discussed his interest in racing and his desire to explore the parameters and limits of speed in his filmmaking. He is NOT interested in providing a particularly logical, tight,

intelligible story. My statement in my LoC from issue #4 that you and those who agree with you would say GL doesn't "know" his characters if he came up to you and said you were wrong (that ROTJ is just what the screen shows us) was simply part of a list of the answers you would probably come up with. And, quite frankly, I would agree. GL doesn't "know" his characters in that he doesn't think about them as deeply as we do. I still maintain that fans have a more exciting, more developed vision of the SW story than its creator does. I know quite well that I am a minority in this, although I personally know several fans who feel as I do. The majority of fandom seems to think of GL as some sort of creative genius. I don't believe he is. I think he's like a lot of people who have incredibly wonderful ideas but executes them in a very limited, unimaginative fashion. If you wish to believe I'm "afraid" of something, well, there's little I can do about that. To me, your dissatisfaction with the "surface" story of ROTJ stems from its presentation of Han. Everyone who ascribes to the theory you propose are rapid Han fans. Those who don't believe it comprise a healthy cross section of SW fandom--Han fans, Luke fans, Imperial fans, Leia fans, others. Finally, I believe there's far more basis in believing GL is just a simple, inconsistent storyteller than believing he's capable of layering his story with some mysterious, elaborate level of profundity underneath. I don't see anything he's done that demonstrates this talent. And there, Marcia, is where we differ.

Sally Syrjala: I have to disagree with you about "an idea should be cherished." Do you mean ALL ideas? Sorry, I don't think so. I think we humans have invented ideas throughout history that are reprehensible and which should not only be attacked, but genuinely hated. I don't like the "Evil Luke" theory to fascism or racism, certainly, but I disagree with your position that attacking ideas is wrong. Censoring, YES! Absolutely! Hell, I wish there would be no more letters in this letterzine about the Evil Luke/Han the Hidden God stuff but I DEFINITELY DO NOT want Cheree to censor them if

they are sent to her for publication. That would be advocating everything I've spent so much time and energy campaigning against as an activist. Of course, what do you and I mean when we say "attack an idea"? I don't think there's anything wrong in saying in a letterzine "I think this idea is incredibly far-fetched because..." or "I think your argument is full of contradictions because..." I don't believe any courtesy has been broken in either of those examples.

Bev Clark: Thanks very much for the info on the outlines. Bit of a disappointment, really. Not that I particularly LIKED the story (yes and no) but I was beginning to think we'd finally had some clue about GL's first trilogy.

Shelley Swan: what a neat letter!

Michelle Malkin: SEARCH FOR SPOCK was a fun movie, indeed, and a wonder to witness after the atrocity of TEMPLE OF DOOM (I don't think I've ever come out of a film so ANGRY. The friend who I saw it with came out of it feeling like a loved one had died. Another friend who saw it at MediaWest was miserable for the entire con. Disgusting film on all counts). SFS was very moving but it still falls short of being "my" STAR TREK. Since STAR TREK will always be my first fannish love, it hurts to see so many fans calling this "pure" TREK when it doesn't have the original's enthusiasm, IDIC, optimism, or joy. Still, it's the best of the three and Nimoy ought to be congratulated by everyone.

Tim Blaes: Just wanted to tell you that I LOVE your letters, period!

Barbara Tennison: What does Luke lose as a Jedi? Everything. His foster parents, the woman he loves, his two mentors, his innocence, his newly discovered father. So many focus on Han's suffering in this saga but Luke loses everything and comes out of it smiling (the last scene of ROTJ). The mere fact that he can so easily forgive Ben for lying to him shows a great deal of nobility and maturity.

Marlene Karkoska: (hi, there, friend!) Your first two outings as a LoCer were both wonderful. You have a great deal to contribute. Keep at it! And Cheree's commitment to

letting other, newer people have their say in such a large part of the zine is to be commended. ((Ed's note: I love long letters, but oh! my aching fingers!))

Debbie Gilbert: I'm not a lawyer yet, but I'm considering being one later in life (civil rights law, labor law and international law in particular). Thank you for the compliment. Loved what you said about GL's lack of "articulateness." How true.

Jeanine Hennig: Your thoughts on Luke's love for Leia and incest is extremely well taken. Interesting how carelessly GL threw this issue at us. I know incest makes people cringe but we really have to try going beyond our parochial assumptions. Besides, anyone ever thought of Luke and Leia being half-siblings? I know this would throw the "twins" line into the trash (where it should be) but I can't reconcile the earlier descriptions of Luke's and Leia's ages, plus their non-resemblance to each other, into this "twin" business. I know fraternal twins need not look exactly alike but there should be obvious similarities between them, and Luke and Leia just don't look anything like each other.

Barbara Brayton: The last thing I want to do is start a political discussion in a SW letterzine, but I will address some of the points you made re "terrorists" just a little. The only thing I can tell you is that you're listening to what your government is telling you. The American mainstream media relies mostly on the government for its source ("officials at the White House say...") and therefore what you hear about Central America rebels and Middle Eastern revolutionaries is extremely biased. The Russians get the same thing about the Afghan rebels. Since this country is allied with Israel, we mainly get pro-Israel stuff. What criticism there is is extremely mild, unfocused and trivial. If you want, I can send you stuff from all over the world with better coverage. I always find it interesting that Americans condemn rebels throughout the world when their own origins stem from a very violent war. The term "terrorist" is a propaganda term. One man's "terrorist" is another's

"freedom fighter." The history books have been cleaned up about the American Revolution. You never read about soldiers and officers leading parties to burn down farms owned by people who didn't want to be involved in the war, who were neither rebel sympathizers nor British supporters. You never hear about the Continental Congress' recommendations for violent reprisals against non-cooperating farmers, villagers, citizens of all persuasions. There's an old saying: "The victors get the privilege of telling the story." Bombing buses is certainly not a wonderful thing to do. But when things have come to the point of desperation, when the other side simply will not talk or give you your rights (as the British refused 200 years ago), then people go to war. And on the way, horrible things are done. There is never any excuse for them. But would you rather have America still colonized by Britain? Also, Cheree makes the mistake of believing the myth that religion and "communism" (which exists nowhere on this earth) don't coincide. ((Ed's note: Pure ignorance on my part. I was amazed just recently to read about Billy Graham preaching in Russian Baptist churches!)) The Polish church does collaborate with the Jaruzelski regime, against Solidarity and the KOR (the Workers' Councils, which are far more radical than Solidarity). I refer to the hierarchy, which does not want the people to be loyal to any other grouping other than itself. It wants to negotiate with the government alone, in total control of its followers. This has all been documented in West and East Europe in underground publications (which are extremely hard to find in this country).

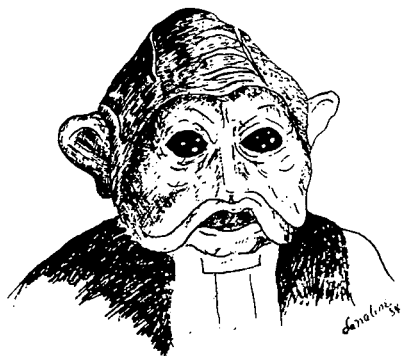
I know people would prefer to think that the Alliance (and the American rebels two centuries ago) are clean war-fighters. But it's not a very realistic approach to war. It may be GL's but his whole vision of his story has little to do with the "real world." War, like Kirk said in "A Taste of Armageddon," "is a very messy business." No matter who is involved. If you're going to make war, you'd better be prepared to do some highly unethical things. You can minimize them (or try to), but eventual-

ly, your opponent will begin getting so incredibly aggressive and brutal, that you're stuck with some awful decisions. You can stop, go home, and face execution along with everyone else who supported you, and let injustice go on unchallenged. Or you can continue, trying, failing miserably sometimes, but trying still. There are good guys and bad guys on every side of a war, and they are often the same people (the conflict/balance between the Dark and the Light). Some will decide on stupid, objectionable tactics as the ONLY way to do things, but this doesn't make ALL of the rebels evil, or their cause wrong. Some officers and soldiers, and politicians, did horrible things in the American Revolution. And they should be condemned. But that doesn't make ALL of the rebels wrong, nor their cause evil.

Sonia Blodgett: I LOVE YOU!!!! Ahem...sorry about that. (Calm down, Sandra...) Anyway, your letter was MAGNIFICENT!!! Not only about the "Evil Luke" theories but about Leia. I'm a big Leia fan and your line about "neither of them (Luke or Han) is the strongest, morally or emotionally, in the Saga. Princess Leia is" made me crazy!!! AT LAST, someone said it!!! Leia is my favorite character and fan portrayals of her have often made me totally pissed off. The whole thing with Han in TESB, and fan interpretations of it, was so incredibly unfair. Here everyone's been saying for years that Leia is the one who needs to "open up" and admit a few things, and when she finally does, Han responds with an "I know" line that could only have hurt her. And fans explained this as "Well, Han's just not that way." OH REALLY??? Gee, I guess it's okay for Han not to admit things, but it's not okay for Leia, since she's a woman after all, right? I agree with Harrison Ford (who invented the line) that it was appropriate--it was Han all the way. That's the problem. I got to like Han in TESB physically, and his scenes with Luke were wonderful, but his baiting and arrogance and manipulation of Leia's feelings were cruel and full of conceit. I don't feel Leia ever needed to admit anything since in ANH she shows her warmth and understanding



all over the place. She just doesn't want to admit her love to Han (she knows it herself). She's angry at him, and I can't blame her. But when she sees that she may never see him again, she buries her anger and declares her love in front of everyone, and he gives her a cop-out! What a cowardly thing to do! Han in ROTJ seems to have changed, though, so I can only conclude that during those few seconds before he went into deep freeze, he realized what a jerk he was being, regretted that he hadn't told her he loved her, and so treats her with much more honesty and equality in the third film. Leia is the one who taught Han, not the other way around. I know people are going to get on my case for this, but it's something I've wanted to say for a long time. I've always found Han to be much in need of a good talking to and Leia is the one who showed him what he was doing wrong. That she can still love him after his behavior in TESB says a lot about her patience and understanding. From the start, she is the one who understands him, and pegged him immediately.



Debbie Gilbert  
5287 Haleville  
Memphis, TN 38116

September 1, 1984

Cheree, I can't believe you actually printed that nonsense from Shelley Swan, but I thank you for letting me discover who it is I'm dealing with. I had received several bizarre letters, unsigned and with no return address, postmarked Oshkosh or Ripon, Wisconsin. These notes were sometimes written in crayon and said things like "I think Mark Hamill looks like an angel." I assumed that this sick person had picked my name

out of a letterzine and had singled me out as a recipient of her "messages", though God knows why. Now I can see that I was not the only person so honored. I don't know who or what this Shelley Swan is, but she is obviously emotionally disturbed and I hope she gets, as they say, "professional help" to learn to live in the real world. Maybe then she won't waste any more good 20¢ stamps sending me crap and living up to the image of STAR WARS fans as kooks.

Now that I've got that off my chest...on to your editorial. Naturally I will be saddened if SOUTHERN ENCLAVE closes up shop; I find I am enjoying it more and more with each issue. But you're right, Cheree--producing a fanzine is supposed to be fun, not torture. As Ben said, "You must do what you feel is right, of course." No point in being depressed and unhappy just because of a few nasty people who don't know how to write a courteous letter. But remember, too, that you have the power; you're not obligated to print anything if you don't want to.

Barbara Izzo: You've come up with a theory almost as fascinating as Marcia Brin's speculations on the Emperor. Han permanently blind? Hmmm. My only point of contention is that Leia told him "Your eyesight will return in time", as if she had read up on the effects of hibernation sickness and knew the blindness was only temporary.

Bev Clark: About the Ewoks being regarded as "cute" while their bloodthirsty aspects are ignored: take a look at "Grem-lins"! I think those things are hideous, and it is clearly demonstrated that they can kill people, yet all of the marketing has been directed toward young children. I can't understand this. Spielberg does not seem to have Lucas' sense of integrity toward his audience.

Tim Blaes: I've had some rotten dealings with the OSWFC, too. I had to send renewal money twice because they "lost" it the first time, and I never did receive the special "Jedi" poster that renewing members were supposed to get. Besides, I am not impressed by their newsletter; all the articles are either about how the special effects were done or they are blurbs on "Indiana Jones." For

discussion of what SW is really all about, I have to look to the letterzines. My "Bantha Tracks" renewal notice came the other day, and I threw it in the trash.

More on "V": I just watched the original again, and the difference in quality between Johnson's production and the sequel was very apparent. No wonder they were afraid to air the two back-to-back. I taped the score this time, and it is a far cry from the nondescript background music used in the sequel. By the way, I've read the first couple of chapters of V: East Coast Crisis by Ann Crispin and Howard Weinstein. At first it was hard to relate to a whole new cast of characters, but now I'm really starting to get involved in it. At least the authors are not limited by the constraints of television, so with this book they can let their imaginations run wild.

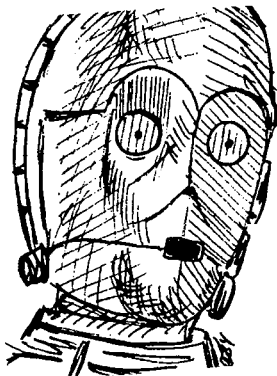
Marlene Karkoska: I guess they call Luke's music the "Main" theme because, as I've argued all along, Luke is the main focus of the saga. It is appropriate that his theme should embody all of it. I don't agree with you that there should have been spectacular music in the speeder-bike scene. How could you hear it over the roaring of the engines? It's just like the battle sequence on Hoth: John Williams wrote some wonderful music for it, but it's impossible to appreciate it unless you listen to the record album. ((Ed's note: the same for the big gunfight in the Raven Bar in RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK--the music builds in incredible intensity and abruptly stops at the first gunshot. It is so well done and the sound level so intense, that I had seen RAIDERS about half a dozen times before I realized that there was no music actually underscoring the gunfight! There are some scenes in movies that do very well without any music at all!))

Sonia Blodgett: Not only is it unnecessary to be a "BNF" in order to write a letter, but how do you think those folks got to be Big Names in the first place? They wrote a lot of letters until their appellation became familiar to everyone. So keep writing, and you, too, can be a BNF!

Danaline Bryant: You are the first to make a distinction between a knight and a master,

and this would have been a useful point to bring up when we were debating "When does Luke become a Jedi?" If being a knight does not require that you possess absolute mastery of the Force, then surely Luke qualifies as a Jedi knight already. But how long does it take to become a Master? Obi-Wan, despite his attire, referred to himself only as a "knight", and calls Vader a "knight", as well. Interestingly, Vader does call the Emperor "master." Master of what?

Lastly, does anyone have any info as to whether NPR is planning a radio series based on "Jedi?" It would be a shame if they didn't complete the trilogy, and their first two shows (SW and TESB) were some of their most popular series ever.



Thekla Kurtn  
851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir.  
Centerville, UT 84014

September 12, 1984

I've always enjoyed every SE, but it was the last two issues that prompted me to write--suppose it is high time I got off the sidelines and jump in. Cheree's editorial plea for cooler tempers and the ensuing responses was the hook. She has a legitimate reason for her plea, I feel. Arguments have been getting out of hand lately. Frankly, in reading some of the letters, I can't believe portions of them were written by intelligent, thinking adults. That sounds pretty strong so I had best clarify it. What I mean is, I can't believe mature individuals who are obviously well-educated, and who have a degree of ethics, morality and respect for others instilled in them can carry on in such a cruel, vicious and, yes, child-

ish manner. Yes, it is only a movie, as stated many times. True, it is a movie that has touched all of us deeply. But still only a movie that will be gone sooner than wounds from vicious attacks and broken friendships will be healed. Can we really justify how our ideas on "only a movie" are worth stepping on another person's feelings? Now I'm not speaking from personal experience (after this LoC is printed I may be, I'm afraid), but I can easily see this sort of thing happening from the barbs in some of the LoCs I've been reading, particularly in the last two issues.

Which brings me to: Others' opinions are as valid as our own. We are all entitled to our own ideas that we've formulated after repeated viewings of the movies. Just because someone else has a different opinion about the true hero of the saga, who the other is, and what their purpose in the scheme of things is, or Luke's fall/not fall to the Dark Side, doesn't mean they're WRONG and you're RIGHT. Only a different way of looking at things. Differences of ideas is what keeps things interesting and makes for more talk here in letterzines. We just don't need to be so vehement in stating our opinions as if we are trying to convert everyone over to our way of thinking. On the other side, we should try to have an open mind and be polite enough to listen to others' ideas--no matter how out in left field they may be. Think how boring it would be if we all had the same opinion about everything in the saga and otherwise.

I'm sure in her editorial Cheree didn't mean that just certain topics could be discussed. She was probably only throwing out a few suggestions to get brain waves moving in other directions. That seems to be another problem--we seem to be stuck in a rut over the same old discussions--repeating ourselves over and over. The SW universe is so large and complex that it can't be from a lack of material.

I just thought of something--maybe that's the reason for rarity of LoCs and why so many are hesitant to write in--they feel they don't have anything new to add, it's all been said before. I know others must be getting tired as I am of reruns

of the same arguments/debates. How refreshing it is to see even a spark of something new.

I have my own opinions on some of the more discussed topics, but I don't want to be the one to drag them on further--so I'll make a few brief comments on some of the things that struck me in the last issue and, also, hopefully, throw out some new food for thought.

Barbara Izzo has some interesting possibilities for Han's clumsiness--I like the second and third possibilities. The third is certainly more intriguing and wide open for speculation--will he ever regain his sight? If so, will he acknowledge his Force-sight then? How does Leia feel about it? Does she know he is using Force-sight rather than eyesight? It's always bothered me, too, that Han regained his sight offscreen. Or did he? I feel we were cheated out of a scene there.

Enjoyed hearing Bev Clark's tidbits from the cons she attended. That Ewok T-shirt sounds great--I want one, too. Was also interested in reading Michelle Malkin's opinions on the latest crop of movies. Our thoughts run along the same lines. Tim Blaes has some great "what if" lists. Let's hope some of you writers out there take the hint as some of those would make good stories that I, for one, would love to read. As I'm sure zine eds would love to get.

It's fun to read how others experienced ROTJ the first time, like Sonia Blodgett and Sally Smith. Completely agree that no matter how many people or how many times they criticize ROTJ, nothing can deter from that feeling when seeing the movies for the first time--that goes for all the SW movies and Indy Jones movies.

Danaline Bryant made some timely comments on how the SW saga has touched children. Children seem to have total acceptance and belief of the saga. It's fun to talk about with them about their feelings--they have such simple, clear-cut ideas about what the movies mean. Which ties in with Maggie Nowakowska's comments on the movies being aimed at the kids. Of course they're aimed at kids, but that doesn't mean adults can't enjoy them as well. In fact it's nice to see something that adults and children can equally enjoy. She also made

some comments about the merchandising. I haven't noticed any serious problems with the toys, books, etc. Kids love them and it encourages imagination and creativity--and isn't that what counts? Not that I'm going to run out and buy everything. Maybe that's where the complaint comes in is that there isn't anything for us "older folks." Well, we must remember SW was created for the kids in the first place and that's where the big audience (translated into buying public) is. We should be grateful in our small numbers that we at least have fandom to play around in. Some people I realize dislike the childishness of the SW movies. If they have a problem with that, they're always free to move on to more "adult" interests. I still think there's something for everyone in the SW saga, though.

I sincerely hope SE can continue in a more positive light. There's a very real need for letterzines in fandom--a need that fanzines alone can't fulfill. Remember, though, that letterzines should be used, not abused. One final thought--I would not be a bit surprised to see SW fandom cease to exist because of internal bickering. Rather ironic--consumed into itself due to internal strife just like the Old Republic in the saga we so much admire. A sad thought, but unfortunately, a plausible one.



Ann Wortham  
5561 Continental  
Orlando, FL 32811

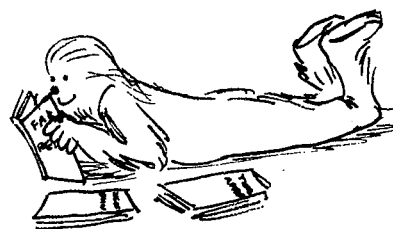
First off, I have to say that this letter had better be printed ahead of Jeanine Hennig's. I paid you a pretty big bribe this time, Cheree, so you better not cross me again! I'd like to add that it was pretty tasteless of you to print that photo of Jabba the Hutt slobbering over FAR REALMS SEX right ahead of MY letter. Boy, are you asking for it! ((Ed's note: Then, again, FAR REALMS SEX is pretty tasteless, too.))

However, getting down to business, I have to admit that I was a little bit confused by the hostility apparent in many of last issue's letters. I was under the impression that you were trying to put an END to the back-stabbing, name-calling, etc., which has been levelled at the very people who protested your editorial statement. I find it rather strange that these people would want the mud-slinging to continue since most of the mud had been slinging in their direction! Well, Cheree, if they like to fight so much, why don't they just do it in private correspondence? The rest of us are getting tired of listening to the private battles going on, I think. Of course, everyone is entitled to their own opinion but, as you stated, it has been a year and more now since ROTJ appeared and we're still hearing the same old arguments bandied about in the letterzines. Where's the creativity in that? Why NOT move on to something new and different? Just my opinion, which I'm entitled to state, so I'd really appreciate it if I didn't get jumped on, wrestled to the ground and beaten into a bloody pulp for doing so.

I would also like to comment on Terri Black's contention that consumer complaints are out of line--this attitude boggles my mind. If I pay good money for something, whether it's \$30.00 or 30¢, I have a right to receive what I paid for. I'm getting just a little sick and tired of unscrupulous, so-called editors who take people's money and then act like THEY are the injured party when they fail to deliver and people complain. I've been treated fairly by 99% of the folks in fandom and I

see no reason to tolerate dishonest behavior in the other 1% without warning everybody about what's going on. When someone STEALS from me, I do tend to get a little bit bent out of shape.

Cheree, this is short as usual and I'm sure you'll understand why. Of course, I've noticed that you don't have any trouble filling SE up without my help! Remember what I said about Jenni Henni--I've just GOT to see her lip quiver with disappointment. ((Ed: Okay, Jenni--start quivering.))



Cynthia M. Manship  
615 ACWS, Box 5282  
APO N.Y. 09305

I've really enjoyed reading and discussing SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. (Mainly with my husband since we're presently living in Germany.) I would like to urge you to continue publishing SE. Having been involved in fannish "feuds" before myself, I can certainly understand your feelings of depression and frustration. (Being in the middle can bring on a feeling of wanting to "knock heads together", as it were.)

But I feel that SE if relevant, especially for us. Living in Europe has its rewards; travel opportunities, the chance to explore different cultures and people, etc. However, there are drawbacks also. Being over here removes us, physically at least, from the fandom we enjoy (not to mention family and friends). With letterzines, such as SE, we are able to keep up with the current issues, rumors, etc., in SW and fandom in general. This means a great deal to us.

SE is published regularly (which is saying a lot right there) and never fails to promote a discussion in our house. I'd love to write LoCs more often but right now I have great demands on my time (her name is Darryn Rebecca Manship, a seven-month-old bundle of wiggly joy. If I thought I had demands on my time before...) I have a

hard time keeping up with my personal correspondence. (The people I write to would no doubt respond, "What personal correspondence?")

So even though I find myself in disagreement with many of the opinions expressed in SE, I still enjoy reading them. After all, how interesting would a letterzine be if everyone had the same opinions. After seeing ROTJ, I don't agree with the view that Luke fell to the Dark Side of the Force. However, many of the examples the proponents of that view have cited caused me to think.

So even though I'm a silent reader, I wanted to let you know that I care and appreciate what you're doing to bring SE to us. Thanks. ((Ed's note: Vielen dank, Cynthia. Wie gehts auf Deutschland?))



Bev Clark  
10501 8th Ave. N.E., No 119  
Seattle, WA 98125

October 2, 1984

I want to throw out, in light of the discussion about editorial policy in letterzines and the editor's prerogatives, a comment made by a BNF SF fan, himself the editor of a fanzine and a contributor to many more; it's a different perspective on the editor's responsibility in regard to LoC's. When I told this guy, during a conversation at Norwescon last year, that there was a strong feeling in media fandom that a letter should be printed exactly as is, no editing, no cuts, he was astonished. This is not the tradition in SF fanzines (or, for that matter, in professional publications). He further said that in his opinion as both an editor and a Loccer, an editor who merely retyped and printed letters with no editing was a compiler, not an editor. Given the tenor of fandom these days, I feel that I ought to add that

these comments are not directed at anyone or any zine; as I said earlier, I think they provide a different perspective from the one we commonly see in media fandom, and the person who made them was as committed to them as we are to our views. But they might make an interesting jumping-off point for a discussion. Just what is an editor's role in a letterzine? Is all editing bad, and, if not, what is justifiable and what is not?

Laura Virgil touched on one of my interests in SW (and other things): the sources and meanings of names. I had also heard that a loose translation of the name "George" was "earth walker." When I looked up "George" in an etymological dictionary, however, its literal interpretation was given as "earth worker." It comes from "geo," meaning "earth," and "ergon," meaning "work." "Ergon," incidentally, is closely related to "organon," meaning (in Greek) a tool or instrument. The plural of "organon" is... "organa." In Latin, "organon" became "organum" (same plural), with the specific meaning of a musical instrument; the word is the root not only of our word "organ" (the instrument) but of "organic," and so on. This gives Leia all those associations with life and with instrument. In addition, "organon" is used in philosophy to signify "a means or agency for communicating knowledge." (The question is, how much, if any, of this did George Lucas know? Leia was originally called "Leia Aquilae", literally "Leia of the Eagles," which seems fitting but a little too blatantly Latin.)

I wonder myself if "skywalker" might not be some sort of sun reference, especially as opposed to Darth Vader. Then there's Han Solo's name. "Solo" is obvious. "Han," of course, is the name of a Chinese dynasty, also a name used by Isaac Asimov as a personal name a couple of times (e.g., Han Fastolfe). Then there are some other meanings (the following are from Gracia Fay Ellwood's essay, "Star Wars: The Snape of a Romance," in IN A FARAWAY GALAXY, a book of essays about SW and its characters). "Han" means "foolish" or "silly" in Chinese. "Han-suru" means "to rebel" in Japanese, and "soro" means "carelessness, cursoriness." In the Japanese versions

of SW, Han's name is rendered "Han Soro," as Japanese has no "l" sound. (Or it can be; I don't have my copy of the book at the moment and I can't check for sure.)

Then mention of names and their sources brings me back, sort of, to my last LoC. (Anything for a transition!) Just for fun, I compiled a rough list of the sources of SW; it's by no means complete. It's divided into two parts: those sources either mentioned by Lucas himself in an interview or mentioned by him to someone else, who reported the source (i.e., sources that Lucas told somebody he used), and sources suggested by others on account of similarities that look too close to be coincidental. There is no guarantee that Lucas has even heard of anything on the second list, of course.

#### Direct:

THE USES OF ENCHANTMENT -- Bruno Bettelheim; also Bettelheim personally as a consultant on one scene in TESB

TALES OF POWER -- Carlos Castaneda

JOHN CARTER OF MARS -- Edgar Rice Burroughs

FLASH GORDON  
"westerns"

"fairy tales" (the stories themselves)

"essays and tapes of speeches" of Joseph Campbell (some of Campbell's speeches have been collected in MYTHS TO LIVE BY, although they are not necessarily the ones Lucas is referring to)

THE HIDDEN FORTRESS -- Akira Kurosawa movie

THE LORD OF THE RINGS -- J. R. R. Tolkien

THE GOLDEN BOUGH -- Sir James Frazer

HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES -- Joseph Campbell (Lucas is inconsistent on this; he told Campbell himself that it was influential, but told Pollock that it was not important, though he read it; elsewhere, Pollock too says it was important!)

"his own life"  
"SF magazines"  
THX:1138

#### Indirect/suggested:

TRIUMPH OF THE WILL -- Leni Riefenstahl (visual)

METROPOLIS -- Fritz Lang (visual)

GUNGA DIN (visual and theme

similarities between its last scenes and those of ROTJ)

DUNE -- Frank Herbert (way back in 1977, Herbert considered suing, leading to my favorite SF "gossip" item of all time: in SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, "Frank Herbert has decided not to sue George Lucas for plagiarism." That's it. No explanation.)

FOUNDATION trilogy -- Isaac Asimov.

Japanese animated SF Japanese samurai movies, esp. those of Kurosawa

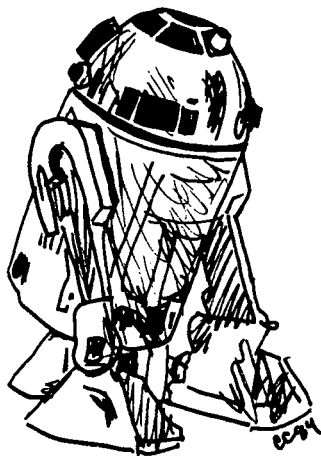
Judeo-Christian mythology Buddhist theology

PLANET STORIES (old SF magazine, whose premiere writer was Leigh Brackett, co-writer of the TESB script)

Finding sources, some sources, or possible sources, is only half the job, though; the other, and harder, half is examining how they are used. Excuse me while I slink away and leave that to someone else...

Finally--actually, Cheree, I think this should go first--there is a word missing in one sentence of my last LoC; it's a small word but it changes the meaning to leave it out. (Which I may have done myself, knowing my typing ability). The sentence should read "Chances are a modern creator will stumble on to the pattern (of the monomyth), not "stumble on the pattern..."

The other thing that needs to be considered is that while Lucas is certainly God as far as SW is concerned (everyone involved has commented at one time or another that they were all serving George's vision), he wasn't the only person involved with the scripts, let alone the directing, and those others also influenced the story, the themes, and so on.



Maggie Nowakowska  
2330 Federal Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102

October 25, 1984

Well, here I sit, tackling a LoC at last. I have just cracked open a new coconut, poured its milk and some pineapple juice, as well as some 151 rum, into a tall glass, laced the mix with a slice of pineapple and placed a slug of fresh white coconut meat beside my typer.

Here goes nothing.

First and foremost, please don't quit! There's a time-worn phrase that fits the situation. I shall paraphrase: do it to 'em if they can't take a joke.

Seriously, since bail-outs such as you contemplate occur all the time in fandom, it behooves fandom to reflect upon itself and ask the self-indicting question: why in blazes does this always happen? Something is very wrong in the way fandom (a) expresses itself, (b) views correspondent relationships, (c) tolerates uncivility to the point of burn out, (d) etc., if all these editors long to retire. We simply cannot keep plaming fate, worn fingers, and mundane responsibilities.

Now, people have complained about ungraciousness in letter-zines for years; SW fandom is not unique. Still many fans continue to suffer from, endure, and defend inconsiderate LoCers. Why? There apparently is a point past which freedom to express oneself becomes license, past which civilized behavior will not tread. Witness all the editors who begin with the highest hopes of not editing, "censoring" letters, but end up with pleas for clemency in language, and with suggestions that LoCers please re-read their prose with consideration for propriety, let alone for the feelings of those addressed.

I suspect, Cheree, that fandom simply does not really believe that you and other editors receive unacceptable mail. That it honestly has no idea of how vitriolic and uncharitable some folks can be. Therefore, I suggest that you print the flaming things. Let the writers see what they look like in cold black and white. Let the readers have the raw material dumped in their laps for an issue or two. Maybe, as a result, we

will finally begin a purposeful discussion of just what is one to do with such material instead of a distant, holier-than-thou exchange of platitudes about free expression. You could print the objectionable letters in a separate, "these I would have rejected" section. Or, when approaching an excretable part of a letter, you could set it apart in a different typeface, or indentation; or, simply space an extra line between the acceptable part of a letter and the part you really didn't care to print, until the offending part is over. Or you could combine all three, typeface, indentation, extra spacing. At least with these suggestions you not only will give evidence of what you receive, but will also prevent people from making wild, imaginative guesses at just what parts you objected to. If you fear blasted feelings among those attacked, change the names. Instead of retyping sentences like, "Maggie is a drooling idiot to think that Ben is not a toad", you could retype "MarySueFan is a drooling idiot to think that Ben is not a toad." Or, what the hell, go ahead and use my name as substitute. I don't mind. Whatever you do, my vote is for a stab at real candor to open fandom's eyes. I've seen too much pain exchanged in the years I've been active, too many hurt feelings and looks of bewilderment, all because some folks in fandom have curious notions about "honest opinions."

On to more enjoyable subjects. First some random thoughts on flipping through SE#5:

Aw, come on Debbie! Yoda makes a great fungus. Why not intelligent mushrooms? Most aren't parasites at all, instead feeding on already moribund material. Yoda could be the sentient fruiting of a planet-wide lifeform that grows its own nutrients on its surface, much as we harvest cattle, carrots and grains. Besides, it's a chuckle to envision a young Kenobi, out in the swamp, exercising under Yoda's tutelage, muttering a student's oaths about what idiocy the Old Mushroom has planned for him this semester...

As for the real parasite, Palpatine, what about the idea of the Emperor as a "Mule" character ((Ed's Note: from Asimov's

Foundation trilogy)). Someone so out of left field as a power user that the Jedi never imagined they would have to deal with such? Defense is difficult against the unforeseen. Along that line of thought, perhaps the Republic was a naive government, that is, the only government the galactic community had known and therefore was not prepared for someone who envisioned an attempt at a galaxy-wide Empire?

And in the realm of the ridiculous...I've got it! The Millennium Falcon is the Other! Sure! The old Buggy always gets away (even when the flames of the dying JEDI Death Star are in front of it in the escape tunnel), and Ye Olde Junkpile is always in the vicinity of the important action (on Tatooine just when the droids arrive). And, why didn't I see it sooner? It must have been the Falcon Vader was following off Hoth! (Actually, it isn't a half-bad idea...)

Next some medium thoughts. Cheree, you suggested that L&L's mom could be Obi-Wan's sister. I have always liked that idea, probably because it opens the mind to all kinds of conspiratorial, conflicting, convoluted plotting. Also, because the storyline of HIDDEN FORTRESS supports it. For those who don't know how much Lucas ~~XXXXXX~~ was influenced by HF, a short summary: two clans have come to battle in 16th century Japan. Clan Y has lost to Clan X which has closed the border between the lands of Clan Y and those of its ally, Clan Z. The young princess of Clan Y, some retainers, and a loyal, inventive general have hidden in a mountain fortress where they have also stashed the clan's fortune in gold. The movie recounts how the general and the princess finally arrive in the ally's lands, with the gold, through the help of ~~three~~ two foolish farmers and an old friend of the general's, currently an officer for enemy Clan X, who defects at the last minute, securing the princess' escape from captivity. The important point in all this is that in the beginning of the movie, we learn that the general's sister has been set as decoy to ensure the princess' safety, and that the sister has been captured and killed. Taking the simi-

larities in the rest of the story with STAR WARS, and adding the sister bit to David Pollack's claim (in a speech about his experience writing SKYWALKING) that L&L's mother was killed, not "just died", but "was killed", the mind boggles with speculations.

Suppose Obi-Wan, Sister and Owen (Owe-wen?) are siblings in a powerful family. Perhaps big brother Obi and little sis dabbled in politics. Maybe Owen doesn't like the smell of things and bows out in disgust. Obi and Sis carry on; Obi gets involved with Anakin which leads to Sis getting involved with Anakin; Anakin turns on both. Eventually, because of Anakin, Sis dies (decoying Vader away from the babies?). Obi flies to Tatooine with Luke to face a sarcastic Owen--"I told you so." What a scenario: the tragedy of Obi-Wan's pride, Anakin's hunger for power; the drama of Sister's betrayed love and her desperate scheming to protect the children; the irony of Owen's flight from power only to find himself guardian of the next generation of Jedi; the harsh destiny of brothers and sister, all doomed to die because of the man they loved and whose children they cherish. And I haven't even mentioned Bail or Beru... Great stuff.

Last, something to go at great lengths about:

Sandra Necchi suggested we chatter a bit more about Luke and Leia. Definitely, especially Leia. Personally, I can't see any great traumas for Luke in realizing she's his sister. He was more in love with the idea of a Princess (and through her, escape from the farm), than with the woman, Leia Organa. Besides, it certainly is common enough for siblings to harbor sexual reactions to one another. I know I did, and in a far more emotionally traumatic situation than L&L's; both my brother and I survived. Luke is now a grown man, and he has just learned a fairly astringent lesson on the differences among reality, illusion and wishful thinking. Besides, Luke and Leia as sibs and friends is fascinating. The power the two of them could combine...

Which brings me back to Leia. Why are so many folks so concerned about Luke's possible abuse of power and not Leia's? After all, Luke did not end up

as Grand Hero of the rebellion. As has been noted in issue previous, no one knows what happened up there on the big 1 out Luke. Wedge and Lando's crew destroyed the Death Star. Admiral Ackbar led the battle; Mon Mothma masterminded the whole shebang. The adventures of Luke Skywalker are just that: adventures of a boy who went searching for excitement and his father, and who ended up a man, wiser, perhaps a bit sadder, but someone who no longer needs adventure and excitement, or a father, to make him that man after all.

The story of Leia Organa is something else: princess, senator, rebel operative, soldier. She has the knowledge, contacts, and skill to take her heritage and use it for all she can get. After all, she is as much Anakin's child as Luke. Leia is just as impulsive as father and brother, just as impatient; she can be just as premature with judgments as they. Unlike Luke, and perhaps even unlike young Anakin, Leia has a wealth of political talents to join with the Force. While Luke has had a lot of the bluster and swagger burnt out of him, Leia has no emotional tie to Anakin to remind her of the potential for abuse she may have inherited in her personality.

Others may worry about Luke who is, in the end, one among none; I suggest more paranoia about Leia Organa who is part of a far-reaching network of temporal power wielders. All the concern about Leia as a 20th century, American culture female, about her heart and her lover, ignores the long ago and far away politician who will wake up from a night with Han and still be Leia Organa, bereft of a throne, a political base, the thrill of a rebellion, of all that is life to her and her reason for being. Now what does she do? Now does Mon Mothma start looking over her shoulder to see who's coming up fast behind?

For both Luke and Leia, now much is nature and how much is nurture? Is Anakin's physical legacy important? And, of course, what have they inherited from their mother?

Sign, Cheree, it always comes to 6 pages. Till next time, may you edit more happily!



Jeanine Hennig  
P.O.Box 166362  
Irving, TX 75016

Reading SOUTHERN ENCLAVE always makes me crazy. This time I had to run around the house three times and yell epithets out loud. I know, it's a bit wierd, but it's better than kicking the dog. Or my husband. I've always been really funny that way, that is, about my friends.

In case you can't tell, I'm mad.

Some of you people hung yourselves nicely with your letters in the last SE. I've even got the rope that I'll gladly let you use. And I'm being considerably nicer to you (and you know who you are!) than you were to Cheree. You can't be satisfied with twisting the saga to fit your own interpretations, but you have to attack the editor's policy, too! What IS your problem?

I'm ashamed to be in the same letterzine as you. Now. Twist THAT one. I dare you.

Ahem. Now that THAT unpleasant business is over with, let's get down to much nicer subjects.

RE Marcia Brin's article: just because Sebastian Shaw is 78 doesn't mean that Vader is. I guarantee that if you'd been in that suit for over twenty years (guessing, of course!) that you wouldn't look too hot, either. And don't I recall that Mark Hamill was 25 when he played a 20-year-old Luke? In my opinion, the point Lucas was trying to make was this: Here's a BIG guy, in a black suit, looking like pure evil, and underneath he's just an old, tired man. A very good point, and well made.

Hi, Sally Syrjala! Thank you for your WHOLE letter!!

Barbara Izzo--I really enjoyed your letter on the whole, but I'm getting a little tired of the picking of nits and the Han Solo/God concept. I've just had it rammed down my windpipe a bit too much lately. Picking nits is all well and good, for a good ha-ha. But when it gets to be an end in itself is when it ceases being all for laughs. Don't we do this for FUN, too?

I love this glomming onto the Falcon's "peculiar dialect." One of those FUN nits. Do you think that Han taught it to say

"ain't" and various other things which probably shouldn't see print?

Shelley Swan...HUH!?:

Haven't you heard, Carole Regine? It's called the Cathedral of Luke, and there's another one for the few enlightened out there, called the Tabernacle of Wedge. Gotta keep up with the times, you know. But seriously, as to your comments about whether Luke would have turned if he'd killed Vader, I've got my own set of stinkers on that one. (Haven't we all?) I CAN'T believe that to be a Jedi means you have to cram all your emotions up and get ulcers. You have to DEAL WITH them, not avoid or deny them. (Didn't Spock learn somewhere that that was foolnardy, too?) But 'tis a fine line we tread, now. Luke kills someone in anger, Yoda says that anger's wrong (and I don't think that Yoda had time to teach Luke all the other sides to that not-so-simple statement), does that mean that Luke's a Darksider? Or is it the SLANT to his anger that matters? Killing out of love, as versus killing out of the enjoyment of killing? (Like the Emperor--gnads, he STILL gives me the heebies. To be that...yuck!) And this leads right into the little "x" I've got beside Mickey Malkin's letter. (Isn't it great that she and I are fans of Han and Luke, respectively, yet can AGREE? Do I sound smug? Good, I am.) This, too, gets to the "slant" I was just talking about. Now, Lucas has mentioned in various interviews that he doesn't like a lot of emotion--I personally think that that may be why he didn't want Kershner to direct JEDI as well as TESB, 'cause Kershner was a director that came up to an actor, grabbed him by the collar and yelled "FEEL!!!" in his face. TESB was a wealth of this type of acting. But personally, being a person of little emotional restraint (Hoo, boy, the things I give away in this letterzine!) I find that attitude of "coldness" intimidated by the fans infuriating. It smacks of the comics that won't let their lead character get involved without knocking his or her lover/companion off. It smacks of the attitude that emotion weakens you. And that gets me up on my soapbox and pisses me off. I agree with everything

that Mickey said in this area concerning the Dark and Light sides of the Force. Unconstrained emotions can be carried to unhealthy extremes (such as in Vader's and the Emperor's cases), and I'm sure that the Light and logic can be carried to those same extremes.

Several orders within the the order--I've always seen the Jedi as being a race of people, so that not every person in that order would be suited to being a warrior. There must be other designation within the order to accommodate everyone's lives.

On other movies--I thought ST3 was absolutely WONDERFUL. For once, Kirk had someone get into a trouble that he couldn't get them out of (in ST2) and I thought that bringing Spock back would cheapen that message. But it DIDN'T; it made the message even stronger. I've heard a lot about the gore in TEMPLE OF DOOM; it didn't bother me too much. I guess I've seen too many episodes of Monty Python and their spoofs of gore to be really affected by it. And I say this as a mother, folks! Gee! It just isn't that real to me. I guess that's another reason for it not bothering me. But I must admit, I don't think I would take my daughter to see it--but she freaked out at "Thriller", so I doubt I'd take her to see anything with horror overtones until she gets over her bothers. As to "V", when that girl even CONCEIVED a baby despite the genetic problems, it made me turn off the show! I will watch the series, though, because I think Marc Singer is wonderful!

Barbara Tennison: You're right about the scene between Luke, Han and Leia in the sickbay in TESB; in fact, Luke's knowledge of Leia's actions is the only thing that saved them, in my eyes! (Hmmm...I wonder what Han would have done to Leia had HE figured out what was going on? He's so protective toward "the Kid"...)

Marlene Karkoska talks about Luke teaching himself the rest of his Jedi skills (Hi, Marlene!), and there's a point that I think she didn't bring out. When Luke faced Vader on that platform and literally told Vader to kiss off, he passed a vital test. Growing up and learning either comes in slow states, or it is forced

upon you by the school of hard knocks. Luke, unfortunately, got the school of hard knocks. He had learned all the applications from Yoda, but all he needed was the practice. Well, the confrontation was a cattle prod, as it would be, to straighten him up real quick. That confrontation turned out to be a sadly necessary thing. Someone, I think it was Ann Zeek, said that if Luke HADN'T gone to save his friends, she shuddered to think of what he might have become. I do, too. The line in STAR TREK 3 that embodied this (and made me cheer) was "the needs of the one over the needs of the many." Also, Sarek asking Kirk "at what cost?", and Kirk replying "If I hadn't, the cost would have been my soul." Chew on that, you people who think Luke was wrong to go after his friends on Bespin.

Another point that Marlene made was about the green color of the saber. Thanks for the common sense. It gets down, once again, to picking nits until they're all gone. Or beating a dead horse. We must remember that a vast majority of the audience isn't as into this thing as we are, and don't pay attention to those details.

Maybe we should start a letter campaign to get that wonderful music that isn't on the soundtrack ONTO one!

Debbie Gilbert--maybe you don't receive a dozen letters a day, but sometimes I do! Add that to work, trying to start a freelance career and having a family, sometimes the time just isn't there. Of course, that could be offset by the argument of making time to do the things you want...but please, guys, go easy on us eds if we don't get back to you! I try to get back to everyone, and if I don't, I try to answer questions and comment in the LoC pages of FAR REALMS. Maybe that is the answer--it saves postage, which can get expensive, and still answers the person.

About rushing zines for MediaWest: it is the best for me, business-wise, to premiere a zine there; that's why I try to put mine out for it. Heck, I just break even on the zines, so it makes sense to do what's most economically feasible.

Annie Wortham, if you EVER link my name with that notorious harlot Nenni Henni again...well

...I'll...

Just remember that I have friends who work for a law firm that give their employees discounts!!! Humph! FAR REALMS SEX, indeed! I, too, got that filthy thing, and promptly threw it on the fire. (After, of course, I read it to see what they had done to my \*ahem\* reputation!)

If taking after her master, the Falcon WOULD have a warped sense of humor! (hee-hee!)

I agree with Sandra about the color thing--I'm heartily sick of it and I was to begin with. See Marlene Karkoska's letter from #4 and Be Enlightened. And to how nice Luke is--well, Sandra, you don't want ME to take up volumes too, do you? Suffice it to say that Luke is, to me, not only a severe looker, but has a mixture of vulnerability and maturity that is wonder-making. He is NOT the perfect hero--I wouldn't like him if he were. And I know that, when I write, I tend to treat him as kind of an alter-ego. He's a very familiar character to me. Han, on the other hand, I don't lust after. (Sorry, Cheree--but that leaves him for you, doesn't it?) ((Ed: Can you see me grinning from there, Jenni?)) He's more of the older-brother-go-out-and-whoop-it-up-FRIEND type. I love Han too, guys! Leia I've always maintained a strange-but-true feeling for. I started out a Leia fan back in the days of SW, didn't respect her much in TESB (I really felt sorry for her, trying so hard and so fatally to deny something as precious as love), and liked her again in ROTJ. She was an amazing example of growth, almost as much as Luke was.

Gnads, I truly didn't intend to start a treatise on the big three! I sound like I KNOW these people, for cripe sake!

Marcia, I just want to know what you mean by "sarlace, sarlace"? And you talk about sweeping generalizations in terms of Luke's rage...well, I think I remember saying that statement you refer to...or if not, I am for it anyway. If you require the basis for such, you should give it for your statements, as well. I thought that we were all talking what we PERSONALLY feel about the subject--surely none of us can get into Lucas' head, so all things we say are opinion, nothing more. Such is

also true with Terri Black's comments--which were inoffensive and an OPINION, if you ask me. If she feels a certain way, no matter WHAT it's about, she has the right, which NO ONE can take from her, to voice her opinion on that subject! Most people don't start out to deliberately offend someone--it is an interesting thing that you took the general statement and chose to be offended about it. Loose up some! IDIC, remember?

Thanks, Mary Urhausen, for the kudos upon Poppa George. I too, no matter that I've got sick on video, will pay green stuff to see it on the big screen. And as to your comments about Ronni Sacksteder, I wholeheartedly agree! And, Mary--I didn't say that I "got off" on brushing my teeth with Luke--simply 'cause I didn't have the guts! So now, it is here, in print! Horrors! My rep is ruined! (What rep--I know shut up, Mary! So tell Kare Ripley "hi" and tell her to send me some more smut to read!

Sonia Blodgett: the SPLSAGW is a non-partisan organization (whatever the hell that is) and will meet yearly at MediaWest Con in the back alley. Our slogan, like the SPPHSIS (so stole, Mary) is "He's always been a nice man!"

Terri Black's comments about zines is a valid one, and on I'd like to comment on. She says that maybe we're putting zines in too high a league. I can't say that I agree. Whenever I put out a zine, I want it to be the BEST possible quality. When I buy a zine, I also want it to be of best quality. I think the extra money is well worth what is being produced nowadays. Also, it is getting to where people who write large manuscripts have no place to put them. I purposefully make FAR REALMS a big zine for them ((Ed's note: That's just because you're so longwinded Jenni--one of your stories would fill up a whole issue of most people's zines!)) ALSO, it is a less expensive gambit for me to put out a zine only once a year. If the time ever came where I could put out FAR twice a year, I'd love it and would do so; but I doubt that even scaled-down one would be affordable for me twice a year, time wise or moneywise.

Hey, Sally Smith, my sister lives in Colorado and has in

vited us up for a visit sometime next year. If so, I'll drop by and we'll lust--I mean TALK!--'bout the blond bombshell in person! I'll even bring my novel!

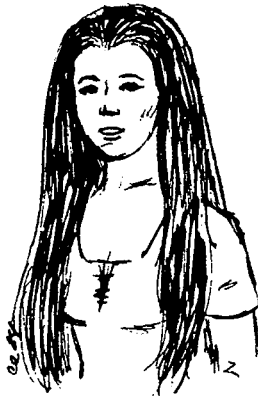
Yea, Maggie Nowakowska, for the merchandising plug! My daughter is already (at two!) heavily into SW stuff, and she LOVES the Ewoks and R2 and 3PO (but if she points at Luke on my movie posters and says "Daddy" one more time I'll be in HOT water!!). After all, SW is for the kiddos, too. And the stuff I've seen so far have been wonderful learning toys for her. With the message of love so prevalent throughout the saga, what better role for a child to follow? Or an adult?

Elsie Bartok, who says that Luke was under Han's command? This, too, was not specifically SAID, and is speculation on everyone's part. And again, I seriously doubt that anyone wants to attack someone because of a difference of opinion. It's just that when we're told that our opinion is WRONG, or that we have nothing on which to base our OPINIONS that we get crazy. That, in cooperation with the smug phrase, given by MANY, "Which film did YOU see?" makes attitudes unbearable. I also have a bone to pick with Elsie about the statement, "Luke fans say that you're being too hard, he's only human, then turn around and say that he hasn't done anything wrong..." No. No, NO!! How many times have I heard the complaint about Hanfen being grouped together--and here you do the same thing to Lukefen. EVERYONE in this tiresome case is an INDIVIDUAL; shall we keep that in mind before we throw stones in excess? If you have something to say, at least address it to the PERSON who made the comment (and I'll bet that, if you can do it nicely, it won't be construed as a "personal attack". Some of you have a really low opinion of Cheree, making her into a paranoid who can't stand a nice debate...grrrrr...!). Some innocent people have been hurt all around by throwing stones without making sure who you're hitting--or getting your facts straight before you "attack."

What was it Thumper said on one of my favorite kiddie movies? Ah, yes, "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothin' at all." Well, that's

not possible all the time, but howzabout, "If you can't say something bad in a nice way, turn back around and take 'Tact 101' from your nearest junior college."

'Nuff said.



Tim Blaes  
Route 6, Box 294  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

October 22, 1984

FORBIDDEN PLANET wasn't the only appearance of Robby the Robot. He did another movie, a couple of TWILIGHT ZONES and a handful of TV appearances. He was inevitably typecast, his career hit the skids, and he spent almost two decades in the Movieworld Museum. In the past several years he has made a comeback, but he's not the star he used to be. (In her autobiography, the Robotrix from METROPOLIS claims that C3PO is her and Robby's love child. Robby denies this....er...anyway...) The Point that I'm about to make is that some aliens and robots are too good to make one appearance and disappear, especially if the alien or robot is better than the movie or TV snow. The alien from ALIEN should have gotten itself an agent, one who could have swung a sweet deal on a TV series. If Kermit the Frog can host the TONIGHT SHOW, why can't Yoda? (You think I'm joking, don't you?)

Why not do a TREK movie with no human actors? Cutter (from ELFQUEST) could be the captain. E.T. the Science Officer. Yoda the Chief Medical Officer. The Alien would be a great Chief of Security, along with various Wookiees, Kzin, Ewoks, Gorns, etc. Nightcrawler (from X-Men) at the Helm. Gizmo could be Chief of Engineering, with Gremlins under his command

("Warp 28, Captain? Aye-aye, sir. And don't worry none about the engines exploding. We can handle it.") Salacious Crumb the Communications Officer. And the CE3K alien could be the First Officer and/or Transporter Chief. The more I think about it, the more I wish they'd do it.

Someone, I think it was Bjo Trimble, said that the true function of a fan club is to help the actor to get work. Keeping this in mind, is there any particular character, or any particular role that you would like to see Fisher, Hamill, and Ford portray in a movie or TV show?

If Ford were about fifteen years younger, I'd love to see him in the lead of the upcoming GREEN LANTERN movie. He looks like Hal Jordan, to me anyway. But Harrison isn't getting any younger, and I'm betting that he'll be in fewer "action" films as time goes by.

Hamill I'd like to see in the lead of a take-off of those old detective movies, playing a character who tries to act like Mike Hammer and Sam Spade but comes off more like Columbo or Inspector Clouseau. Perhaps Carrie Fisher could play a short Lauren Bacall-type, but she's near-sighted and won't wear glasses, so she constantly bumps into things. I'm sure we could shoehorn Harrison into the plot, perhaps as a cab driver.

If there is ever a film made of Lynn Abbey's Rifkind character (DAUGHTER OF THE BRIGHT MOON, THE BLACK FLAME), Carrie Fisher might be right for the role. But Rifkind is a wiry little scrapper, and Carrie would have to do some muscle development and learn to use a sword. She'd have a harder time of it than Arnold Schwarzenegger. Less strenuous would be a comic book character of Zatanna, member of the JLA and a Sorceress who gets things done by speaking backwards.

A few erratic, irrelevant, and irreverent examples of clutter from the closet of my brain: The title of a new Godzilla movie, "Destroy All Smurfs!"; the image of the little girl from POLTERGEIST putting her hands on the main viewscreen of the Enterprise and saying, "They're here"; the image of Saavik in place of that guy in the FOOTLOOSE video (don't ask me to explain this one); the

image of Godzilla, in top hat, coat and cane doing a Fred Astaire impression over Tokyo, singing "Puttin' on My Top Hat"; Chewbacca doing one of those old shaving cream commercials, with a slinky woman telling him to "take it off...take it all off"; Mr. Rogers as a vampire ("You have something Mr. Rogers wants, boys and girls. Can you say 'blood'?"); Mr. T as a Gorn ("Ah pity the fool who doesn't see STAR TREK IV!! Ah pity the fool!!"); somebody refers to Mr. Spock as "Elrond" and the Vulcan is the only one who understands and appreciates the reference; "ST5: Plan Nine from Romulus."

A few comments about your editorial. When you get right down to it, how much difference is there between the subject of Luke and a discussion of how many bolts are in the Falcon's hull? The difference between behavior and trivia, I suppose, but it's still fiction. I wonder what a psychologist would discern from all this perturbation over Luke, because I think it reveals more about those who discuss, than the subject under discussion.

Those who whine "personal attack" are very often people who cannot withstand a direct challenge to any of their opinions. I don't know about the rest of you, but I fully expect someone, sooner or later, to get pissed-off at me. It's a hazard inherent in our little institution. What do you expect of people who are obsessed with movies and TV programs?

Please don't give up SE, at least not until issue #7. That's when my subscription runs out. If you choose to quit, that's up to you, but please give things time to change course. If you just put your foot down and end a discussion, you'll end up crushing a lot of toes and a lot of people will limp off, unsatisfied. Please don't go, please don't go!! We'll eat you up, we love you so! ((Ed: Thanks, Tim--'preciate the heck out of it!))

Barbara Izzo's theory about Han possibly being blind is an interesting one. Most of her points remain just as valid, however, if you assume that he isn't totally blind, and that his full sight will return. Still don't think he's the Other or a Jedi, though.

Shelley Swan: Uh, I...an,

how old are you? Are you on drugs? Are you pulling our legs? For the life of me, I don't know how to reply to your most...interesting comments. (Help me out here, Cheree. Who is this person?) ((Ed: Beat's me. I don't write 'em. I just print 'em.))

Bev Clark: Thanks for clearly defining a word that has been tossed about a lot in fandom. Before you made it clearer to me, I wouldn't have known a monomyth if one of them bit me.

The problem with living in a small town is that most of the movies you want to see don't get to you. Hendersonville has two small theaters and a drive-in. If a movie doesn't do well in the Big City, we don't get it. If it does do well, we don't get it for months, if at all. The Distributors often give our theater a hard time. And when a movie stays for weeks and weeks... Well, I don't get to see as many of the movies I'd like to see. Still, I'll toss in a few comments.

STAR TREK III: THE WRATH OF SPOCK'S BRAIN: I liked it. The Return of the Vulcan was somewhat forced and scientifically sloppy (does Harve Bennett understand the difference between aging and evolving?), but the fans wanted him back, so I doubt that there will be any complaints about that. I simply loved the Klingon Bird of Prey. Kirk should take that ship, dump the Federation, and go free lance, possibly work for the Vulcans. But what I remember most about ST3 were the things that I didn't like but would have to live with: the death of David, the "death" of the Enterprise, the absence of Kirstie Alley as Saavik. Robin Curtis did a very good performance as a Vulcan, but a very bad performance of Saavik. She was just too different, and I lay responsibility for this on Nimoy and Bennett. ((Ed's note: There was a too much physical difference, too. Kirstie Alley looked cool and in command; Robin Curtis just looked confused all the time.))

TEMPLE OF DOOM was a movie worth seeing...once. I agree with Malkin about Snort Round. There will probably be only one more Indiana Jones movie, so perhaps Mr. Round could take over the series.

RED DAWN was a movie I liked, and feel somewhat guilty

about it. Director John Mili is a self-styled "Zen Fascist" whatever that is, it don't sound too rational. The film is obviously against gun control yet that nice little bit about "cold, dead fingers" makes its own point about handguns being ineffective in civil defense.

FIRESTARTER was filmed in North Carolina, parts of around here. I auditioned for the part of an extra, but didn't make it. They'd probably have stuck me and my bike in front of the entrance to Chimney Rock Park. ((Ed: My elbow was in Michael York movie once. Actually, all of me appeared as an extra, but only my elbow made it to the big screen...or little screen, since it was a made-for-cable movie--THE WHITE LIES which was filmed in Dallas. The "Africa" scenes were done at the wilds of Lion Country Safari Grand Prairie, TX, between Dallas and Fort Worth.))

CHRISTINE was the funniest "horror" movie I've yet seen (Hey! Try this for a cross-universe story--Christine vs. Herbie the Love Bug!). ((Ed: KITT.)) GHOSTBUSTERS was all a scream. Three best things the Nutcracker, Wanda, Sigourney Weaver possessed, and the dreaded Stay Puft Marshmallow Man ((Ed: I thought they should've used Poppin' Fresh, the Pillsbury Doughboy. They could've fried him up into dinner rolls or something.))

Michelle Malkin: There are all sorts of genetic tricks that might help augment a Jewish revival. There is Chimeric cloning, a way of combining two or more embryos into one whole if somewhat patchwork person. Might a Chimeric Jedi possess a variety of unique potential? And then there is the exact opposite procedure, splitting an embryo, producing identical twins.

Regarding my comments last month about preview trailers for pop music, imagine if you will after the third and last Indiana Jones movie is finished, a triple bill promotional trailer using the Pointer Sisters' "I So Excited." Think about it next time you hear that song.

A few more comments on remember the "bedroom scene" between Diana and Brian? wonder what it must be like, make love in what is essential (to the Visitors) full-blown "Planet of the Apes" type making

up? Maybe they get off on rubber. But seriously, the psychological effect of the Visitors' own deception, their makeup, must be considered. I believe, given the technology, prosthetics could be developed that could make a reptile look like a human. The Visitors' were so good that they were able to live in them constantly, as they had to. Just as a person who pretends to be insane may eventually become so, many of the Visitors, to one degree or another, would begin to take on human characteristics. Some might even develop psychological abnormalities. Part and parcel of living a lie.

Update on that other alien race the Visitors are at war with. I have been told by someone whose ears are sharper than mine that this mysterious race consists of refugees from the planet that the Visitors blew up with the gravity drive/doomsday bomb. It seems that the Lizards destroyed the planet, but enough of them were off-planet to still present quite a threat. I'm still rather fond of my dispassionate insectoid idea, but how about a truly passionate race on a Jihad, a holy war against all Visitors? A feline race that also would not care who got in their way, and who would kill Martin just as enthusiastically as they would Diana. Or if you want to get really wild, what if the little Charles Bronsons were only "three apples high" and blue? (Having no shame, I'd put weapons on them that looked like the Ghostbusters' Nutrona Wands. One would just walk out from under a table and Ker-ZAAAAP!! Right up the rectum of an unsuspecting lizard.) ((Ed: If you've been watching the series, you will know of the "Praeta-Nama" Cult that Willy seems to be a part of. He told them of the "Lords of Light" [isn't that a zine?] and how only one "Lord" had survived, but that Elizabeth bears his mark. I immediately thought of Star Wars...that the Lords of Light were the Jedi and Luke their only survivor. It could easily be that the Visitors are part of the Emperor's Darkside-ers, that the "Supreme Leader" is the Emperor, that their enemies are the Jedi Lightsiders and the Alliance, several years down the line, or on an alternate timeline. Anyway, it would

really make an interesting cross universe story, I think.))

I finally bought a copy of SKYWALKING, after it finally came out in paperback, but all I've done with it so far is peek in it here and there. I suppose this is partly because George Lucas isn't really that interesting, and partly that what I've read of it in the various magazines it's been excerpted in doesn't impress me very much. It's all "gosh-wow!! Isn't George Lucas the greatest thing to come to motion pictures since Edison invented the medium?" This usually invokes within me a knee-jerk "George Lucas is a jerk" response, but that's not all I feel about him.

Laura Virgil: I've heard some fans say that they left ST fandom because things got a little too much for them, because of personal attacks and useless discussions. Actually, I suspect that these people left ST and came to SW to start their own little corner of chaos, their own useless discussions and their own factionalism. Having plowed my way through a stack of INTERSTATS, I have come away with just the opposite impression as Laura's; Han vs. Luke at its worst has nothing on even the mildest debates. And even they could take lessons from the review and letters pages of THE COMICS JOURNAL. Their Letters Page isn't called "Blood and Thunder" for nothing. So if you think things are bad here...

Sandra Neccni: Ooi-Wan didn't look gleeful to me when he killed that scumball in the bar. I think Ben was in his rights, and was not power mad. ((Ed: I don't think he killed him at all--just cut his arm off when the guy went for his plaster.))

Marcia Brin: What is Force-bonding? I believe you are the first to use that precise term, but the idea is not new, in any SF&F that acknowledges psionics. I prefer the term Force-link, myself. It can be established between a Force-user and a non Force-user, but I'm sure it's easier if both have some Force potential, or if there is common blood between them, or both. Such a link probably makes communication much easier than with someone without such a link. There really isn't that much solid information in the movies about the Force and how

it works, but I extrapolate that a Force-link is a constant form of communication between two or more people, deeper than mere telepathy, reaching into the more instinctive, unconscious portions of the soul. GL may have his own ideas, but until he elaborates on the subject himself, I think mine is a safe yardstick.

Both Luke and Leia were occupied at the moment, and Luke has a clear motive for dampening the link, so that explains why they were not in communication during the big battles. It may be true that Luke was doing all the work when he and Leia were in contact after DS2 blew, and I still suspect that it's easier to "reach out and touch someone" if you have some link with the person involved. And why did Luke reach out only to Leia and not Han as well? Why didn't he try to establish contact with Chewie during the climax of TESB? Vader had been close to Han on at least one occasion; if Han is a Jedi, why didn't Vader realize he was a Force-user?

I'm sorry, but I cannot accept as fact that Han is a Jedi, the Other, or anything of the nature. I think there is evidence that he may have Force potential of some sort, but just as much can be said of Leia. That brings me to another point; don't dismiss any Force potential from Leia. She is an x-factor of considerable magnitude, so don't eliminate any possibilities.

Why do you feel that the scenes that established that Leia was in command were "unnecessary"?

George Lucas is hardly a demigod, so I fail to understand why you're so incensed over Sandra Neccni's opinion. Sandra probably has more respect for Lucas than you're willing to perceive. Nevertheless, it's about time that someone invoked his name with something less than reverence. He didn't do it all himself, you know. Lucas may have created this thing, wrote and directed the first movie, but when you add up the influence of the other directors, Lawrence Kasdan, each of the actors, the production and pre-production crew, ILM...there is nothing in any of the films he can take credit for creating solely by himself.

Danaline Bryant: After Rebo's band jumped off the barge, just what did they do, way out there in the desert? Thumb a ride? Me, I'm sad that Salacious Crumb kissed the Big One. I've been told that I resemble him, somewhat.

Cheree, I've been hoping some of the readers would be inspired by those silly little lists of mine. Well, I'm going to stop being subtle. I want somebody, anybody, to edit a cross-universe fanzine. It doesn't have to be a big one, as Terri Black pointed out, to be successful. I happen to know of three or four good cross overs that are obscure enough to warrant reprinting; I will promise at least two and a half stories myself so I don't think the editor of such a zine would have to worry too much about material. It would be different. Why don't I do it myself? Cheree, tell them about my spelling. ((Ed's Note: true... Tim sometimes does show considerable flair for the...uh... original.)) My typing's not so hot, either. I have not the skill or the resources. But I want to read this fanzine, so I'm going to have to depend on someone else to assemble it.

Jean Stevenson: You may not be able to hear their conversation but it was rather clear to me that Luke did tell Owen about the need for a Bocce-speaking droid. Since they were talking to each other just before Owen brought up the subject, it is a reasonable assumption that it was the subject of communication. ((Ed: besides, Owen himself asked 3PO if he could speak Bocce and it was apparently the reason Owen decided to buy 3PO.))

There was a scene filmed where Luke told Leia he would be taking a leave of absence, but it was left on the cutting-room floor along with their nearly-kissing scene. They kept it in the British print, I believe, so he did tell someone.

Has it occurred to anyone that the Other was a red herring?

Quote of the month: At this year's Atlanta Fantasy Fair, author Larry Niven was asked which world he would rather live in, a world of science as the law, or a world where magic held sway, he replied: "I'd commute."

Barbara Izzo  
518 Golf Links Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

October 25, 1984

I see time has slipped by once again and I hope I am in time for the deadline. Congratulations are once again in order for your efforts in giving us a very fine letterzine. Don't get discouraged because a small percentage of your subscribers are giving you Excedrin Headache No. 6,895! Hopefully, they will realize that the rest of your subscribers do not enjoy their vicious diatribes.

In the matter of Jani Hicks/Barrowman-Harper and Ronni Sacksteder's antics in fandom: It is grossly unfair to the rest of us that we continue to plunk down our hard-earned credits and be treated in so cavalierly a fashion. However, re Ms. Sacksteder, I noted in the latest issue of UNIVERSAL TRANSLATER that she will try to pay all monies owed back. I guess everyone's raising the roof about her position. She has offered an explanation for her actions. However, if she had come forth in the beginning about her financial problems, instead of the ultimatum she had given everyone, I'm sure those people involved would have understood. Fen are not heartless people, but the way she went about it would have ruffled a few feathers.

As someone who makes Toys 'R' Us a regular stop on her weekly round of shopping, I agree with Maggie Nowakowska about the merchandising of the SW products and the Indy products. I have become a collector--"er...for my nephew, niece, godchild, cousin in Italy, etc." You don't think I'd have the nerve to say I want an Action Figure for myself, do you??? Anyway, I have Action Figure collector's fever and have a goodly number. Of course, then there's the whole Ewok village, complete with my plants as background for the Forest of Endor, and figures to populate the village. In addition, I have a whole set up of Jabba and his court, not to mention larger items such as the Falcon, the Imperial Shuttle Tydirium, and larger figures of R2 and 3PO, plus the tapes, books, etc. I don't know why I've become so involved, but it's fun!

Hooray for Marcia Brin's Vader article. I hope there are many more of these to come. As a SW fan who loves to get into every little thing about the saga, I applaud folks who care enough to go and delve deeply into it. Having been guilty of this myself, I am happy to see I am not alone. After all, what are we left with? As far as we know there have been no official announcements from Lucasfilm about continuation of the films. We didn't discuss and dissect what we know and have seen already, what's the point of the letterzine. I'm inclined to agree with Jean Stevenson on one of the points she makes: "We could all lose interest. I'm afraid that might happen. However, as she also stated and I agree, "Not bloody likely!" So, you people who want to write great articles such as Marcia's Vader article and Jean's Leia article, please keep them coming! ((Ed's note: Yes, please do! Material for SE--for the most part--isn't solicited! I need articles and reviews, etc. every issue! Come on, you guys! Marcia & Co. aren't staff writers--let's hear from the rest of you!))

Lastly, I have to agree with Melody Corbett's reply to Sandra Necchi. I have noticed for a long time that Sandra's letters do try to intimidate people who disagree with her. Hey, we're not here to intimidate. We're here to put forth our views of the saga, not to tear down other people's. Melody's right. Sandra's aggressive attitudes and approaches are never backed up with tangible evidence.

Again, Cheree, terrific zine! Hang in there!

